THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. (SANGMA) : (a) to (e) The Social Security laws in regard to which the Labour Ministry has proposed changes are : Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1973, and Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The amendment Bills in respect of the first two Acts have already been introduced in the Parliament. Particulars of proposals for amendments to Workmen's Compensation Act have been furnished vide reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1952 dated 7-3-1994. Laws for welfare of Agricultural and Construction Workers are under examination in Government.

Wage Board for Child Labour

1959. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Minimum Wage Advisery Board for child labourers to ensure minimum wages to them ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(c) whether the children will legally be allowed to seek employment in all industries except those which are injurious to health ;

(d) if so. what are the details in this regard and the reasons therefor ;

(e) to what extent it will adverseiy affect the health of children ;

(f) what are the recommendations of the Minimum Wage Advisory Board in this regard ; and

(g) what is the total number of children at present working in various industries in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is no specific law to allow children to seek employment. Various Central and State legislations prohibit child labour in factories, mines, plantations, shops and establishments as well as in areas of employment scheduled under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. In non-prohibited sectors of employment, conditions of work including health and safety aspects are required to be regulated under Part III of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

(f) No recommentation in this regard have been made by the Minimum Wages Advisory Board.

(g) As per 1981 census 13.6 million children (upto 14 years) were working in India in different areas of employment including the industrial sector.

Child Slavery

1960. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in the "Times of India" of 20th January, 1994 that "India tops in child slavery" ;

(b) whether a large number of Nobel Laureates have issued a New Year message expressing disdain against this inhuman system of child labour in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that an estimate of nearly 200 million children are forced to work like adults ; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware (from the above news item) of the new year message by Nobel Laureates in respect of child labour in general.

(c) No, Sir. According to 1981 census the number of children who work, including those who assist in family work, are 13.6 million.

(d) Government aims to eliminate child labour progressively. This is sought to be achieved through legislation, better enforcement of laws relating to child labour, welfare programmes, spreading greater awareness amongst parents, employers and society at large and extension of education to increasing number of children.

देश में बाल श्रमिक

1961. **श्रीमति उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल :** क्या **श्रम** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में, विशेष रूप से गुजरात में, मजदूरी करके अपने परिवार का भरण-पोषण करने वाले बाल श्रमिकों की संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) सरकार द्वारा बाल श्रम को रोकने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं अथवा उठाए जाने का विचार है; और

(ग) बाल श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिए आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में क्या प्रावधान किया गया है ?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा) : (क) 1981 की जनगणना के अनुसार भारत में कामकाजी बालकों की संख्या 13 6 मिलियन तथा गुजरात में 6,16,913 है विशेषकर कृषि क्षेत्र में बड़ी संख्या में बालक परिवार में ही काम करते हैं और इस प्रकार परिवार की आय में सहायता करते है।

(ख) सरकार, राष्ट्रीय बाल श्रम नीति-1987 के अन्तर्गत विधानों और उनके प्रवर्तन, सामान्य विकास कार्यक्रमों तथा बाल श्रमिकों के पुनर्वास की कार्योन्मुखी परियोजनाओं के माध्यम से क्रमिक रूप से बाल श्रम का उन्मूलन करने के लिए कदम उठाती है।

(ग) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में कुल 15 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित किये गये हैं।

Payment of Provident Fund and ESI Dues

1962. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : With the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases relating to the defaults in payment of Provident Fund and ESI dues by the employers in the country are increasing ;

(b) whether Government propose to set up special bench in the courts to dispose off such cases;

(c) whether a large number of organisations and MPs have also urged Government to clear such cases; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Representations are received about default in payment of ESI and Provident Fund dues. The ESI and the Employees Provident Fund authorities are already taking necessary legal and penal action to recover the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

Employment Schemes for Tribal Youths

1963. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to create employment opportunities for youths living in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and criteria and specific particulars of schemes which have been adopted by Government for Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the details of allocation of funds for each district of Madhya Pradesh by Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and